

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment claims 14-15, 22, 24-25, 31-39, and 41-53 are pending in the application. Claims 14, 22, 43, 48-50 are independent. Claims 14, 22, 24, 25, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41 and 43 are sought to be amended. Claims 48-53 are new. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. The changes are being made without prejudice to the Applicants' ability to reintroduce subject matter contained in any deleted or amended claim, or to introduce additional claims.

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner and his supervisor for taking the time to speak with the Applicants' local patent attorney. This greatly assisted in the preparation of this Amendment and Reply.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and objections and that they be withdrawn.

Specification

The specification has been amended to correct minor errors in the text. Support for the amendments is clear in Figures 3b and 12, page 6 lines 10-13, page 15 lines 14-18, and page 16 lines 14-17. Again, no new matter has been added.

Drawings

The drawing change suggested by the Examiner related to the blind has not been made as claim 40 (which referenced the blind) has been deleted. The Applicants reserve the ability to make such change in the future.

A proposed drawing correction to Fig. 12 is enclosed and highlighted in red. The correction replaces a reference numeral; so that, the drawing corresponds to the related text. No new matter has been added.

Also enclosed is a letter to the Official Draftsperson enclosing the revised drawings. The Applicants request that the Examiner approve the corrections; so that, the corrections may be entered by the Official Draftsperson.

Claims

In the second office action the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 14-18, 20-25, 27, 28, 30-39, 41, 42 and 45-47 under 35 U.S.C. §102 based upon Blackman et al and rejected claims 3-13, 19, 26 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103 based upon Blackman et al in view of Suchy. The Examiner indicated that claims 40, 43 and 44 would be allowable if claims 40 and 43 were rewritten in independent form.

Claim 40 has been deleted without prejudice. Claims 43 and 44 are now in a form that the Examiner has indicated would be allowable.

Each of the other pending claims is directed to an assembly or frame assembly that requires a frame or frame assembly that is separate from a cover, in addition to the other claim limitations. None of the cited references describes such an assembly or frame assembly. In particular, Blackman et al shows an integrated wireless safety light with sensing means for conventional light switch or plug receptacle. Suchy et al shows an indicator light powered from a vacuum wall valve connection; which, even if it were proper to combine with Blackman et al, does not remedy the deficiencies of Blackman et al.

Newly added claims 48-53 include additional features related to spacer means for positioning a component, in addition to other claim limitations. Again, the combination required by the claims is not found in the cited references, alone or together.

It is believed that all of the claims, both amended and new, are distinguished from the cited references and in an allowable form. This includes previously rejected dependent claims where one or more of the underlying independent or dependent claims has been amended.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Cunningham et al
Appl. No. 09/767,959

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DOWELL & DOWELL

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph A. Dowell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "D".

Ralph A. Dowell
Agent for Applicant
Registration No. 26,868

Date: 4/16/03

Suite 309
1215 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202
(703) 415-2555

Version with markings to show changes made

Page 6, line 10-13 are amended as follows:

Cover 40 mounts on top of frame 42, allowing access to connections 58 of wall outlet 52 through opening 94. Apertures 50 on cover 40 align with screw holes 96 on wall outlet 52. Screws --[48] , not shown (but see screws 49, Fig. 12) --, or other suitable fasteners, may be used to secure cover 40 --[, frame 42] -- and wall outlet 52 together.

(Twice amended) Page 15, line 14:

Referring to Fig. 12, the layout of components of frame assembly 2c is similar to the layout for components for frame assembly 2b (Figs. 3a and 3b). Light switch 52c is mounted to electrical box 54c via screws --[48c] , not shown (but see screws 48, Fig. 3b), -- inserted through --[apertures 50c and] -- hollow spacers 56c on frame 42c. Hollow spacers 56c allow light switch 52c to be flush with the front surface of cover 40c.

Page 16, line 14-17 are amended as follows:

Cover 40c mounts on top of frame 42c, allowing access to switch 30 of light switch 52c through opening 94c. Apertures 50c on cover 40c align with screw holes 92c on light switch 52c. Screws -- [48c] 49 --, or other suitable fasteners, may be used to secure cover 40c -- [, frame 42c] -- and wall outlet 52c together.

Claims 14, 22, 24-26, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41 and 43 are being amended as follows:

14. (twice amended) A frame assembly and light for covering a wall conduit in a wall, the wall conduit having components requiring access outside the frame assembly, the frame assembly comprising:

a light;

an electrical circuit providing electrical energy to the light from a power source;

a rectangular frame through which the electrical component is accessible, the frame housing the electrical circuit, the frame having a side with a depth sufficient to house the light, and the frame having an aperture in the side allowing the light to illuminate a space outside the frame assembly through the aperture; and

a cover plate -- separate from the frame and -- for covering the frame and for providing access to the components of the wall conduit.

22. (once amended) An assembly for use in association with a component having a connection to electrical power and requiring access during use to a portion of the component, and a -- separate -- standard-form cover for the component, the assembly comprising:

a rectangular frame through which the component is accessible; and

a light;

wherein the rectangular frame has a side that has sufficient depth to house the light,

wherein the side has an aperture for allowing the light to illuminate outside the frame through the aperture,

wherein access through the frame to the component is dimensioned to be covered by the standard-form cover.

24. (once amended) The assembly of claim -- [23] 22--, wherein the component is an electrical outlet with an electrical connection, and the electrical connection is that part of the electrical outlet that requires access during use.

25. (once amended) The assembly of claim -- [23] 22--, wherein the component is an electrical switch with an electrical actuator, and the electrical actuator is that part of the electrical switch that requires access during use.

31. (once amended) The assembly of claim 22, further comprising spacers extending from the frame -- [such that the component is held] for holding the component -- in a desired position relative to the cover.

32. (once amended) The assembly of claim 22, further comprising:

a substantially flat base plate extending inwardly from the rectangular frame, the component being accessible through the rectangular frame -- [and the base plate]

while connected to the connection --, and

spacers extending from the base plate -- [such that the component is held] for holding the component with the base plate between the component and the conduit -- in a desired position relative to the cover.

34. (once amended) The assembly of claim -- [17] 22--, wherein the rectangular frame is dimensioned to cover a wall conduit for an electrical box.

36. (once amended) The assembly of claim -- [16] 22--, wherein the frame further houses a power circuit for powering the one or more lights from the electrical connection.

37. (once amended) The assembly of claim -- [16] 22--, wherein the frame further houses a light sensor, the frame having sensor apertures through which the sensor senses ambient light external to the frame.

41 (once amended) The assembly of claim -- [16] 22 --, wherein the light comprises a lighting emitting diode (LED).

43. (once amended) -- [The assembly of claim 42,] An assembly for use in association with a component having a connection to electrical power and requiring access during use to a portion of the component, the assembly comprising:

a rectangular frame through which the component is accessible; and

a light;

wherein the rectangular frame has a side that has sufficient depth to house the light, and

wherein the side has an aperture for allowing the light to illuminate outside the frame through the aperture, and

wherein the light comprises a lighting emitting diode (LED), and --

wherein the LED is a plurality of LEDs and the side aperture is a series of side apertures, one aperture for each LED, and each LED extends into its respective side aperture.

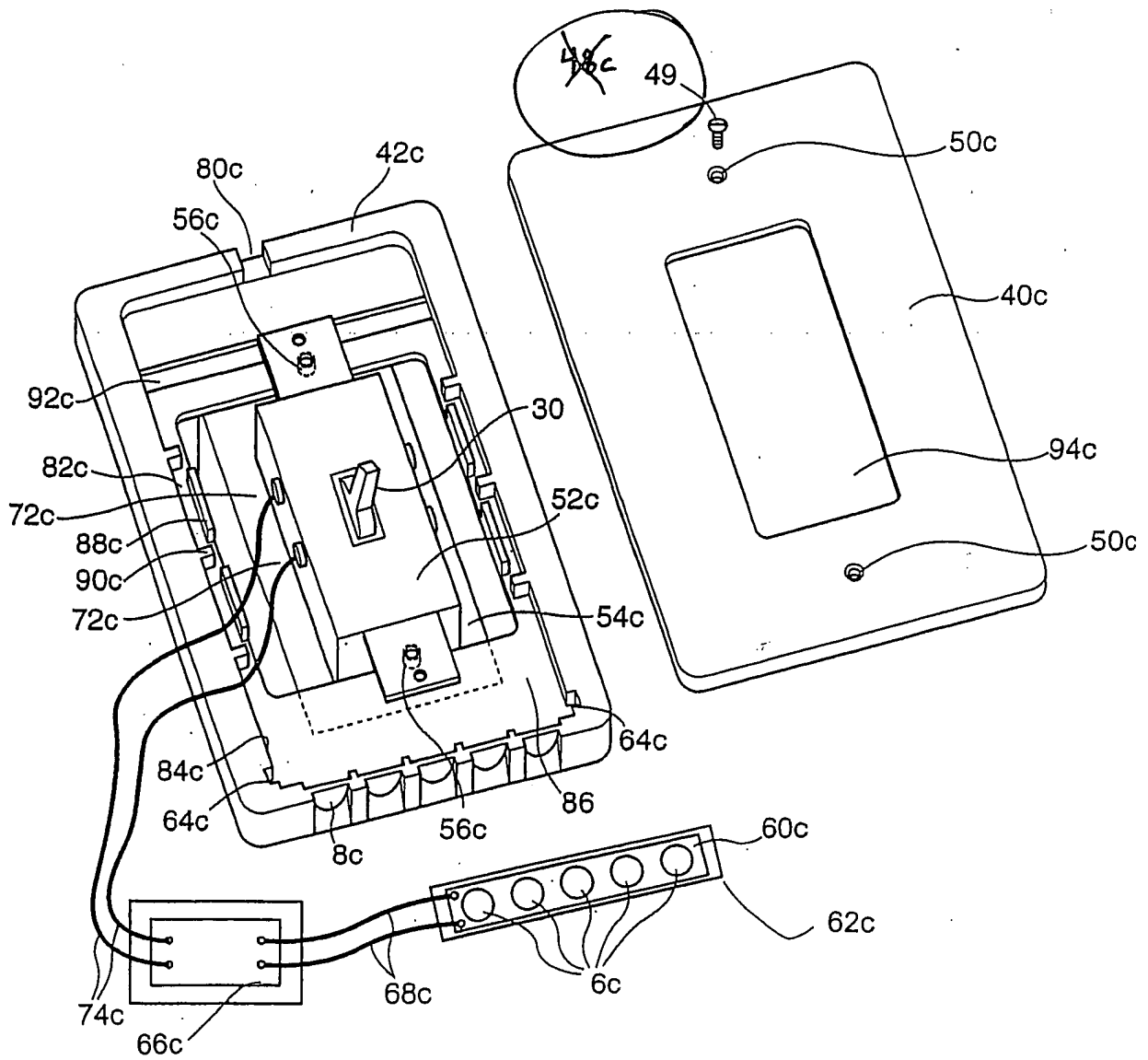


FIG. 12